



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin Aug. 26, 2022

Dear Chad,

When I became president of the OPC two years ago, the outlook was grim. A killer pandemic was devouring the world's economies. Schools and offices were shut down. And millions of people had lost their jobs as everything from restaurants to theatres to airlines went into a defensive crouch.



I will admit I was worried at times that the club wouldn't make it. By the end of 2020, it was clear we wouldn't be able to hold in-person events for many more months. That included our April annual dinner – the club's major revenue raiser – for the second consecutive year. Without an awards dinner, would reporters and media companies stop submitting their work? Would members stop paying their dues? Without a physical space in which to gather for board meetings and events, would members stop participating?

Then something marvelous happened. Four things, actually. We discovered that online events and board meetings were more popular than in-person ones. Club members working from home and missing the camaraderie of the office were happy to attend board meetings and programs just by logging-on. Most members also continued paying their dues. Media companies that had long supported the OPC's mission as a place to cultivate and reward global journalism came to the rescue with generous donations to tide us over. And under the steady hand of Executive Director Patricia Kranz, the club renegotiated its rent and cut other expenses.

I'm happy to report that, after holding two annual awards dinners in six months – the regularly scheduled one in April and the long-delayed 2020 dinner in October 2021 – our finances look better than they ever have.

Not only did you, the OPC's dedicated members, step up, but the club has a new spring in its step. Its board is younger, more diverse and more involved. We found new purpose during the pandemic, first by awarding mini-grants to freelance journalists whose livelihoods were temporarily destroyed by the pandemic. We made similar grants to Afghan journalists who last year fled the Taliban and are now refugees in the US. The Ford Foundation seeded both programs with generous donations to the OPC.

Soon, the club will distribute grants to Ukrainian journalists who have been upended by Russia's invasion. In all three grant programs, the OPC demonstrated that it's not just a bystander as global events destroy careers, but a leader in the community of people, companies and nonprofits that champion global journalism.

I am also proud to say that not only did the club continue offering book nights, expert panels dissecting current affairs in the US, Europe, Asia and Latin America, and interviews with winners of OPC awards, we also began a series of online "How I Did It" seminars featuring award-winning freelance journalists and their editors. These tutorials, which are ongoing, have drawn large audiences and provided inspiration and practical advice to younger journalists.

One final project I am pleased to mention – digitizing the OPC's trove of Bulletins and Dateline magazines – is now complete, thanks to Patricia and Chad Bouchard, the OPC's technology specialist. Bulletins dating back to 1945 and Dateline magazines from 1958 are now online and available to members, historians and journalists worldwide. This rich trove of documents offers a trapeze through modern history: Did you know Fidel Castro spoke to the OPC in 1959 and that John F. Kennedy held his first press conference at the club after winning the Democratic presidential nomination in 1960? These and other descriptions of club events, parties and periodic controversies can be viewed in the OPC's collection on Archive.org.

Now it's time to pass the baton and say goodbye. But I'm not really going anywhere. I'll continue to attend board meetings, annual awards dinners and online programs, and I'll try to offer a guiding hand to the board and my successor whenever needed. You can find me in the amen corner.

OPC Bulletin and Dateline Magazine Are Now Available on Archive.org

by Patricia Kranz, OPC Executive Director

In the fall of 2019, I was asked to talk about the OPC's history to

recently elected governors. On the shelves next to my desk were OPC Bulletins dating back to 1945 and Dateline magazines from 1958 to the present. The Bulletins were particularly interesting to me because they were published once a week for decades and gave a detailed description of the club's programs, parties, and periodic controversies.

Few OPC members and officers knew this treasure trove was sitting in our basement office. Now anyone interested in OPC history can view them in the OPC's collection on Archive.org.



World leaders made news at the club's frequent luncheons and dinners. In May 1959, Fidel Castro spoke to a crowd of 1,800 OPCers and their guests. Over 100 journalists covered the function at the Hotel Astor, where one of the notables was baseball great Jackie Robinson. [Click on this link](#) to read more and view photos of Castro with OPC officers.

Search for John F. Kennedy and a story headlined "OPC Serves as Setting for Campaign Kickoff" [describes](#) his first press conference after being nominated as the Democratic Party candidate for President in August 1960. Prior to that, JFK gave the keynote speech at an OPC Awards dinner while a senator from Massachusetts.

The OPC office is missing copies of the Bulletin for the years 1946, 1953, 1976 and 1989. Please check your bookshelves to see if any of these may be in your home collection.

[Read More](#)

Here are some tips for searching the OPC archive:

[Archive.org/details/opc-archive](https://archive.org/details/opc-archive) is the entire collection. Use the search bar on the left to type search terms, and make sure "text contents" is selected instead of "metadata" unless you are only searching for PDF titles or dates.

For Bulletins only, use the link below:

[Bulletin Archive](#)

This link, which includes Datelines only, is the best place to look when searching for information on OPC Award winners:

[Dateline Archive](#)

Here is a URL showing member directories:

[Member Directories](#)

Upcoming Events

Sept. 6: OPC Annual Meeting

TIME: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

LOCATION: Online via Zoom

The OPC Annual Meeting, open to all members in good standing, will be held online on Tuesday, Sept. 6 at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time via Zoom.

RSVPs are mandatory, as only members in good standing (who are up to date with dues payments) are eligible to be at the annual meeting.

Registrants will receive a link to join the Zoom call about an hour before the program on Sept 6.

The deadline for voting is Monday, Sept. 5 at noon Eastern Time.

The OPC is using the online voting website Balloteer again this year to host its secure election. Watch for an email from info@opcofamerica.org with your ballot link if you have not voted yet.

The system allows one voting ballot and delineates between Active and Associate members. There will be no paper ballots this year.

This year, the OPC will elect officers and nine (9) Active board members and three (3) Associate board members to begin two-year terms.

Results will be announced at the annual meeting.

RSVP Now



Sept. 13: 'How I Did It' - OPC and The Li Center at

Columbia University Present: The Story Behind The New York Times' 'Civilian Casualty Files'

TIME: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

LOCATION: Joseph D. Jamail
Lecture Hall, Pulitzer Hall, Columbia
Journalism School + Streaming via
Zoom

The Li Center, in collaboration with the OPC, goes behind the scenes of "The Civilian Casualty Files" in a conversation with **Azmat Khan**, the lead reporter, and **Luke Mitchell**, her New York Times Magazine editor.



The event will be held in person and online. More details about how to register will be announced soon.

Columbia University is committed to protecting the health and safety of its community. To that end, all visiting alumni and guests must meet the university requirement of full vaccination status in order to attend in-person events. Vaccination cards will be checked upon entry to all outdoor and indoor venues. Masks are strongly recommended but not mandatory.

Based on thousands of pages of previously unreported Pentagon reports and five years of painstaking reporting from Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan, Khan's stories painted a damning portrait of American warfare. The reporting exposed the systemic intelligence failings that resulted in countless civilian casualties from U.S.-led airstrikes. And it described the web of impunity that provided cover to those responsible. The series won numerous awards, including a Pulitzer Prize, a National Magazine Award, an Overseas Press Club Award, and a Polk Award. This talk is part of an OPC series, called, 'How I Did It,' which convenes freelance journalists and their editors or producers to break down a major feat of reporting. It will be moderated by OPC Governor Ginger Thompson, who is the chief of correspondents at ProPublica and the winner of multiple journalism awards for her reporting from Latin America and from the U.S.-Mexico border.

Photo: Ivor Prickett

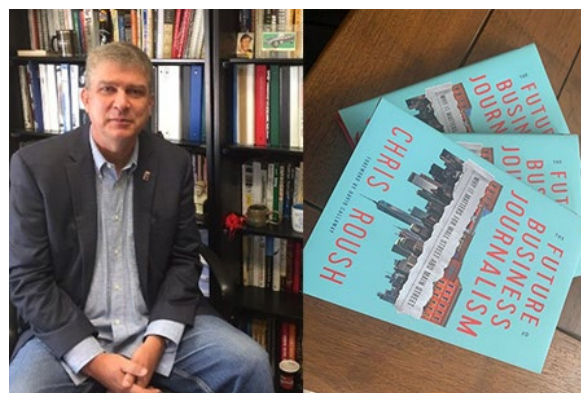


Oct. 11: Book Night With Christopher Roush to Discuss 'The Future of Business Journalism'

TIME: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

LOCATION: Online via Zoom

Business owners, consumers, and employees have long relied on the news to make financial decisions — what to buy, who to hire, and what products to sell. In the twenty-first century, that news has shifted. Only the big businesses and executives can afford expensive subscriptions, while most consumers and small business owners are left scrambling to find the news they need to succeed and thrive.



In *The Future of Business Journalism*, veteran business journalist and professor **Christopher Roush** delves into how the crisis occurred, from the disintegration of the once-strong relationship between businesses and media to the media's focus on national coverage at the expense of local news. He reveals how these trends result in major "coverage deserts."

Registrants will receive a link to join the Zoom call about an hour before the program on Oct. 11.

OPC President **Paula Dwyer** will moderate the discussion.

RSVP Now



Oct. 12: OPC and DART Center Offer Psychological Safety Training to Freelance Journalists

TIME: 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

LOCATION: Online via Zoom

Freelance journalists are invited to an interactive, virtual session on psychological safety and resilience on Wednesday, Oct. 12 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time. The training, primarily for freelance journalists working overseas, is jointly offered by the Overseas Press Club and Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma. It is supported by the



**PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY TRAINING
FOR FREELANCE JOURNALISTS**

OCT. 12 FROM
12:00 P.M.
TO 1:30 P.M. ET



International Women's Media Foundation, Committee to Protect Journalists, Rory Peck Trust and ACOS, all organizations committed to providing programs and services to bolster the mental health and security of working journalists.

The 90-minute training will offer a model for understanding the impact of trauma and related stresses in journalism, as well as strategies for enhancing individual well being, giving and receiving peer support and building resilient teams.

The training is to be delivered by **Katherine Porterfield**, PhD, a clinical psychologist and senior trainer for the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, will include a slide presentation, interactive breakouts and ample time for Q&A and discussion.

[RSVP Now](#)

See the Resources section below for psychological resources for journalists from Rory Peck Trust and the Journalists Trauma Support Network (JTSN).

Applications are Open for Overseas Press Club of America Grants to Ukrainian Journalists

The OPC is pleased to announce that it will award a limited number of grants in cash or photographic/video equipment to Ukraine journalists working in any medium whose livelihood or ability to pursue his or her profession has been adversely impacted by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

**OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA
GRANTS TO UKRAINIAN JOURNALISTS**

DEADLINE: SEPT. 9 AT NOON US EASTERN TIME

[BIT.LY/OPC_UKRAINE](https://bit.ly/opc_ukraine)



The cash grants, with a likely maximum of US\$2,000, are available to staff and freelance reporters, editors, and photographers. The primary goal of these grants is to help Ukraine's journalists during the war. Successful applicants may use the grants in any way they prefer.

Additionally, there may be available for photo and video journalists some replacements for equipment damaged or destroyed in the course of their activities.

Applications should be submitted to the Overseas Press Club of America by filling out an application on Submittable.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 12:00 noon U.S. Eastern Time (7:00 p.m. Ukraine time) on September 9, 2022.

DECISIONS WILL BE MADE AND COMMUNICATED BY: October 1, 2022.

[Read More](#)

[Apply Here](#)

Press Freedom Organizations Raise Alarm About Threats to Journalists in Dominican Republic and Central Romana

The following is a letter to the Central Romana Corporation in the Dominican Republic, signed by the OPC and other press freedom advocates.

Dear Mr. Sturla:

We are a group of news and press advocacy organizations in the United States that have previously worked with or assisted a journalist who has previously provided reporting on Central Romana. We write to notify you about some alarming information we have received over the past year, involving threats made to this reporter and ask for your cooperation with this matter.

In 2021, Reveal from the Center for Investigative Reporting and Mother Jones, two of the oldest nonprofit news organizations in the United States, co-published the stories, titled “The Bitter Work Behind Sugar” and “The High Human Cost of America’s Sugar Habit” covering various aspects of the sugar industry in the Dominican Republic and Central Romana. Ten days after the co-publication of those stories, our organizations were alerted about numerous credible threats of death made against a reporter contributing to those stories. As I’m sure you can imagine we were alarmed by this news. I know you must be as well.

The hostile signals sent by these incidents can have a perilous chilling effect on newsgathering and thus on the flow of information, involving important reporting. Moreover, these threats against bodily safety only sharpen the already acute physical risks investigative journalists face doing important reporting around the world.

To address this situation, we have spoken with U.S. officials and press advocacy organizations over the past year and are now contacting you to notify you about these threats and ask that if you have any information about them or any relevant information that you please share it with us to help us ensure the safety of this and other reporters. While we will be closely monitoring the situation, ensuring the location and health of this reporter, we urge you to

support us in protecting the basic rights of reporters.

Read More

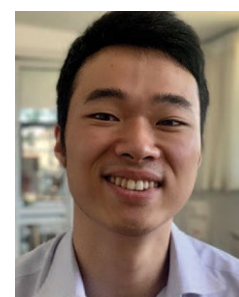
People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Sarah Trent, the 2020 Roy Rowan Scholarship winner, [on Aug. 23](#) was named one of two new interns for High Country News magazine. She recently moved to Vancouver, Washington, and said in an introduction that she is “looking forward to exploring climate stories in a region that is significantly impacted, but less covered by the national media.” Trent had an OPC Foundation fellowship on the science desk at The Wall Street Journal.



Dake Kang, the Fritz Beebe Fellowship winner in 2016, has been [reporting](#) on how mineral mines in northern Myanmar have affected indigenous communities. The minerals are needed for components in green energy technology. “Their cost is environmental destruction, the theft of land from villagers and the funneling of money to brutal militias, including at least one linked to Myanmar’s secretive military government. As demand soars for rare earths along with green energy, the abuses are likely to grow.” Kang and AP colleagues Victoria Milko and Lori Hinnant wrote in the piece. Kang was part of an AP team that won the OPC’s 2020 Roy Rowan Award for reporting on China’s human rights violations against the country’s Uighur minority. His OPC Foundation fellowship in 2016 was with the AP in Bangkok.



UPDATES

OPC Governor **Marjorie Miller**, the administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes, was profiled in Editor & Publisher magazine [on Aug. 15](#) to discuss this year’s awards, which have been called the most diverse to date. Miller told the magazine that it stemmed from greater diversity in newsrooms, and “then you get more diverse juries, and the board, over time, has gotten more diverse, and so they help present more diverse winners.” Miller served as vice president and global enterprise editor at The Associated Press. She became administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes on April 21, before juries began to select this year’s winners.



OPC Governor **Derek Kravitz**, who is a project editor at Columbia’s and Stanford’s Brown Institute for Media Innovation and investigations editor at MuckRock Data, was

among the researchers who created a new archive to help academics and journalists make sense of the early days of COVID-19. In a piece for The Intercept [on Aug. 20](#), Kravitz is named as the leader of an effort to request records from state and local agencies for sensitive records like COVID-19 death tolls and conditions in meatpacking facilities. The new archive will expand and compliment that work, according to the article.



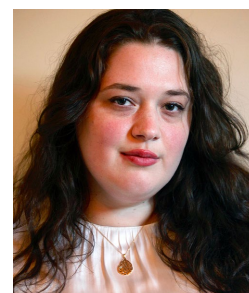
OPC member **Abigail Pesta** wrote a feature for Rolling Stone magazine [on Aug. 21](#) about a survivor of child sex trafficking who has become an activist and organizer working to thwart predators. She wrote that Jose Alfaro, a gay man from a small Texas town, had broken his silence and is telling his story, “as he has done in criminal and civil court, providing deeply personal insight into how traffickers ensnare young men and boys, exploiting them emotionally, physically, and sexually.”



Emily Schultheis, an OPC member and freelance journalist based in Berlin, wrote a longform piece for the online news site .coda [on Aug. 4](#) about death threats and harassment from anti-vaxxers leading up to the suicide of physician Lisa-Maria Kellermayr in Austria. She writes that Kellermayr faced seven months of coordinated harassment before the closure of her practice in late June then taking her own life on July 29. Police called her initial reports of cyberbullying “false” and dismissed subsequent threats to her life without investigation, Schultheis wrote. Police are now investigating a man alleged to have sent a message suggesting a “tribunal of the people” would convict and execute Kellermayr.



Yasmine Mosimann, an OPC member and freelance journalist based in Baghdad, produced and presented a video piece for France 24 [on Aug. 23](#) covering Iraq’s worst political crisis since the U.S.-led invasion. The country’s judiciary suspended work on Aug. 23 after supporters of powerful Shiite cleric, Moqtada al-Sadr, demanded that the body dissolve parliament. Mosimann said the move halted all legal processes across the country. “This just marks another escalation of what is now an over ten-month process to form the government.”



OPC members **Robert Cooper** (left photo) and **Will Cathcart** wrote a story published in Air Mail [on Aug. 20](#) about a program to sponsor military support for Ukraine by allowing donors to sign grenades launched at Russian soldiers. They wrote that for \$2,000 on SignMyRocket.com, a Ukrainian soldier will write a message on a grenade,



drop it from a drone onto a Russian soldier, and send a video of the attack to the donor. Other donation offerings include writing a message on a tank turret or howitzer shell. Cooper and Cathcart said that the project has raised more than \$200,000 for an NGO that has donated vehicles, medical supplies and food to Ukrainian fighters. Most donors are American and European, the two reported.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Longtime Associated Press correspondent and editor **Marcus Eliason** died [on Aug. 5](#) in New York at the age of 75. OPC member John Daniszewski, former international editor for the AP, told the AP in a remembrance that Eliason was “a wonderful writer and editor, erudite, wise and supporting.” He began covering global news in the late 1960s, eventually landing in the AP Paris bureau in 1978. Over his career spanned the 1967 Six-Day War, apartheid-era South Africa, war in Afghanistan, turmoil in Belfast, Ireland, the fall of the Iron Curtain, and the handover of Hong Kong.

Tim Page, a renowned British photojournalist and OPC Award winner who was wounded four times while covering the Vietnam War, died [on Aug. 24](#) at his home in Australia at the age of 78. Page covered Vietnam from 1965 to 1969, having arrived at the age of 20. He co-published a book in 1997 with Horst Faas, titled *Requiem*, that included the work of 135 photographers who died in the war. The book won a Robert Capa Gold Medal Award, as well as a George Polk Award. He was known as a risk taker and renegade whose personality inspired Dennis Hopper’s character in Francis Ford Coppola’s *Apocalypse Now*. In 2013 he told VICE that “any war picture is an antiwar picture.” He added that while photography didn’t necessarily stop the war, “I think it contributed to swaying public opinion.”



People Column Aug. 26

New Resources

RESOURCES

The **Journalists Trauma Support Network (JTSN)** has a listing of trauma psychotherapists in the U.S. who have completed the JTSN training in working with journalist occupational stress and trauma. The resource provides a search engine to find therapists by state within the U.S. [Explore the JTSN Directory here.](#)

Rory Peck Trust has a Therapy Fund which covers the cost of treatment for freelance journalists to access professional psychological support. [Read more here.](#)

The **Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)** and the **Global Reporting Centre (GRC)** are seeking volunteers to take a survey for a study on disinformation and harassment targeting journalists. The findings will be published and result in practical recommendations for journalists and press freedom advocates. Journalists over 18 years old can participate, whether or not they have been targets of credibility attacks or harassment, and responses will be confidential. [Read more and take the survey here.](#)

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

The **International Journalists' Network (IJNet)** has posted its Aug. 10 seminar on best practices for reporting on gun violence. The presenter was Aben  Clayton, a reporter for The Guardian. [Watch the program here.](#)

The **Coalition for Women in Journalism (CFWIJ)** has posted its conversation between Sally Buzbee, executive editor at the Washington Post, and Kiran Nazish, founding director at the CFWIJ, discussing opportunities and challenges of the last year, and thoughts about the direction of news in the near future. [Watch the program here.](#)

From Sept. 8 to Sept. 10, the **International Press Institute (IPI)** will host its annual world congress at Columbia University. The event will include panels and discussions on a wide range of topics with editors, journalists, publishers and media experts from the United States and around the world, with a focus on challenges facing journalism and strategies to address them. [Read more and register here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **Water Desk** will award grants of up to \$10,000 to support significant reporting efforts that lead to the publication of content connected to the Colorado River Basin. The program is only open to journalists (freelance and staff) and media outlets. The deadline for applications is Sept. 21. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Applications are open for the **Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program** for 2023-2024. The program offers "over 800 awards in more than 135 countries for U.S. citizens to teach, conduct research and carry out professional projects around the world." The application deadline is Sept. 15. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **McGraw Business Journalism Fellowship** provides grants up to \$15,000 and editorial support to produce "deeply reported enterprise and investigative stories that delve into critical economic, financial or business issues across a wide array of subjects." The deadline to apply is Sept. 30. [Read more and apply here.](#)

More Resources

- The **Columbia University's Brown Institute for Media Innovation** has compiled a large repository of documents on COVID-19 via FOIA

requests. [Explore the database here.](#)

- **ACOS** [assembled](#) a substantial list of COVID-19 resources for journalists, including links to practical safety advice, funding opportunities, hardship and emergency funds, and reporting resources such as guides for fact checking.
- **ICFJ** [launched](#) a page for COVID-19 resources for journalists.
- **Rory Peck Trust** has a [resource page](#) for pandemic coverage. It includes safety guidelines, funding sources, job opportunities and online training.

The OPC has added these links to a special COVID-19 section on the member-only Resources page available to members who have logged in. Watch that page as we share more. Click the button below to go directly, or find it in your Member Dashboard under "Resources."

If you have any issues accessing the resources page, please contact Chad Bouchard at chad@opcofamerica.org for credentials.

OPC Resources Page



Overseas Press Club of America | 40 West 45th Street, Club Quarters, New York, NY 10036

[Unsubscribe](#) chad.bouchard@gmail.com

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@opcofamerica.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!